

II. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting errors in image reading from image data of an image which has been read, said method comprising the steps of:

compressing the image data;

comparing ~~values~~ a data size of the compressed image data or a compression ratio of the compressed image data ~~associated with the compressed image data~~ and reference values previously determined in connection with an error in image reading; and

determining existence of an error in image reading based on said comparing when the data size of the compressed image data is smaller than a data size previously determined as the reference value or a compression ratio of the compressed image data is larger than a compression ratio previously determined as the reference value.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

using an image reader to read the image and obtain said image data.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

storing data of the image read by the image reader.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining existence of an error comprises judging that there is an error in image reading when data size of said compressed image data is smaller than a data size previously determined as said reference value.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining existence of an error in image reading includes a step of judging that there is an error of image reading when a compression ratio of said compressed image data is larger than a compression ratio previously determined as said reference value.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of determining existence of an error in image reading includes the steps of:~~ A method for detecting errors in image reading from image data of an image which has been read, said method comprising the steps of:

compressing the image data;

comparing values associated with the compressed image data and reference values previously determined in connection with an error in image reading;

determining existence of an error in image reading based on said comparing;

selecting a reference value corresponding to said image data read out from a reference value table having a plurality of reference values previously determined in connection with errors in image reading; and

comparing said selected reference values and said read out image data after compression with each other.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting an error signal when it is judged that there is an error in image reading.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said error signal is transmitted to a central location.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 1,~~ A method for detecting errors in image reading from image data of an image which has been read, comprising:

compressing the image data;

comparing values associated with the compressed image data and reference values previously determined in connection with an error in image reading; and

determining existence of an error in image reading based on said comparing;

wherein said error in image reading is due to malfunction of an image reader used to read the image.

10. (Original) An apparatus for detecting an error in image reading from image data of an image which has been read, comprising:

an image reader;

a first memory for storing image data read out by said image reader;

a data compressor for compressing the image data stored in said memory for the image data and for holding the compressed image data therein;

a second memory for storing a plurality of reference values previously determined in connection with the error in image reading; and

a selector for selecting a reference value corresponding to said image data read out from said second memory, and for determining existence of the error in image reading by comparing the selected reference value with said compressed image data.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said second memory includes a table having the plurality of reference values.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to 10, further comprising a transmitter for transmitting the existence of an error in image reading.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to 12, wherein said transmitter transmits a signal indicating said error to a remote location.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said image reader is built into an automatic contract apparatus.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said automatic contract apparatus is one of an automatic cash machine and an automatic teller machine.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, in combination with said automatic contract apparatus.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said automatic contract apparatus is one of an automatic cash machine and an automatic teller machine.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said image reader includes at least one of an image illumination lamp, a CCD camera, and a document handling device.